



Executive Directive 7 (2007)

STATE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Importance of the Issue

Interoperability is a key issue in public safety communications to allow public safety agencies to communicate with one another in their common effort to protect the public. The public safety community must have a way to provide input to the Commonwealth's overall efforts to improve interoperable communications on a local, regional, statewide and multi-state level. Public safety practitioners bring decades of response experience to inform state-level decision-making and provide key recommendations. The Commonwealth must continue its efforts to involve relevant organizations to improve interoperable communication.

Section 9.1-1200 of the Code of Virginia requires the annual update and implementation of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Communications Interoperability. Additionally, all agencies and localities must comply with and achieve consistency with the Plan by July 1, 2015 to remain eligible to receive state or federal funds for communications programs and systems. By maintaining local, regional and state level involvement in decision-making for interoperable communications, the Commonwealth is better preparing and educating its local organizations to respond and recover from major emergencies.

Continuance of the Executive Committee

I hereby continue the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). The primary purpose of the SIEC is to make recommendations via the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator to the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group, Secure Commonwealth Panel and the Office of the Governor concerning communications interoperability. The SIEC is comprised of various associations, agencies and organizations that represent the local, regional and state public safety perspective. The SIEC also coordinates with the Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees (RPACs) established by the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness to gain feedback and input from a regional

perspective. The SIEC assists the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator in performing his statutory duty under §2.2-304 to review all communications-related grant requests from state agencies and localities.

Executive Committee Membership

The SIEC membership shall be comprised of the following associations, agencies and organizations:

- Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office
- Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Virginia Association of Governmental Emergency Medical Services Administrators
- Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
- Office of Commonwealth Preparedness
- Virginia Sheriff's Association
- Virginia Association of Counties
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- Statewide Agency Radio System
- Virginia Information Technologies Agency
- Virginia Municipal League
- Secretary of Public Safety
- Secretary of Technology
- Virginia Military Advisory Council
- Virginia Department of State Police
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Emergency Managers Association
- VA Professional Fire Fighters
- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Office of Emergency Medical Services
- Representative from each of the Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees

SIEC member organizations may appoint primary and alternate representatives to represent the organization. Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation. They may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties upon approval by the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator.

The Committee shall elect a chairman, and may elect a vice-chairman from its membership for one year terms. The Committee shall meet at least six times per year as is deemed appropriate or on the call of the Committee Chairman. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Duties of the SIEC

- Recommend an approach for Virginia interoperability efforts, evaluate progress and approve changes in direction and scope for the overall strategy;
- Represent their respective organization at SIEC meetings;
- Provide advice and support to the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator;
- Assist with the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Statewide Communications Interoperability annually;
- Participate in Initiative Action Teams to develop specific work products such as operational procedures, policies, technical strategies and case studies;
- Make formal recommendations concerning interoperability to the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group (CPWG) and the Secure Commonwealth Panel (SCP);
- Ensure local, regional and state interoperability efforts are in alignment with the Strategic Plan for Statewide Communications Interoperability;
- Develop interoperable communications minimum requirement recommendations; and

The SIEC will report on the status of the Strategic Plan for Statewide Communications Interoperability to the Governor by November 1 of each year.

Effective Date of the directive

This Executive Directive shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive action.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 11th day of September 2007.

Timothy M. Kaine, Governor